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Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007

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Published December 27, 2007

Police: Boy drove drunk dad

Because of 2 priors, Eaton Rapids man faces up to 5 years

Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

CHARLOTTE - An Eaton Rapids man authorities say let his 9-year-old son help drive his pickup on Christmas Eve because he was drunk has been charged with operating while intoxicated and second-degree child abuse.

Jonathan David Olson, 32, was arraigned Wednesday in Eaton County District Court.

A judge set Olson's bond at \$50,000.

Because Olson has at least two previous drunken driving convictions, he faces up to five years in prison.

"While we've had quite a few cases where people were driving while intoxicated with children in the car, I can't ever recall a time when somebody has done this," said Eaton County Prosecutor Jeff Sauter, who has been either prosecutor or assistant prosecutor for about 25 years.

Sauter would not talk specifically about the case, but said a person can be charged with second-degree child abuse if they do something that is likely to cause a child serious physical harm, regardless of whether the child is injured.

Olson was still being held Wednesday night at the Eaton County Jail.

If released, he will not be allowed to have contact with his son, court officials said.

At about 9:30 p.m. Monday, an off-duty Eaton Rapids police officer saw Olson's Dodge Ram being driven erratically, and called dispatch, Eaton County Undersheriff Fred McPhail said.

An Eaton County sheriff's deputy stopped the truck on Kemler Road, near M-50, outside of Eaton Rapids, and found Olson sitting between the driver's and passenger seats - and Olson's son in the driver's seat.

The boy told deputies that his father had him drive because he had been drinking.

The boy said he would operate the accelerator and brake under his father's instruction, and his father would steer, McPhail said.

They had driven about seven miles from a relative's house and were headed to another relative's

home, where Olson has been living, said Olson's mother, who did not want to be named.

She said they were driving on a rural, dirt road.

"I think it was poor judgment at the time," she said.

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Article published Dec 27, 2007
Gonzales, Snowden to be extradited
Parents of dead toddler will face local courts

By BOBBY AMPEZZAN
Times Herald

The mother of an 18-month-old toddler whose body is believed to have been stored in her house for two years, waived her right Wednesday to an extradition hearing in Allen County, Ind.

St. Clair County prosecutors don't know when Ashley Snowden, 23, will return to Port Huron where she is charged with accessory after the fact to a felony. They are waiting for her live-in boyfriend, John Gonzales, 38, to have an extradition hearing before scheduling local proceedings.

Gonzales is charged in St. Clair County with open murder, first-degree child abuse and being a habitual offender for the death of his son, Braylon Bishop Gonzales. An extradition hearing had not been scheduled Wednesday.

Police believe the couple killed Braylon in Port Huron in 2005 and moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., to escape police and child protective services.

Officials in Allen County believe Gonzales may waive his extradition to expedite the case.

If that happens, Port Huron police Detective Dave Seghi said Gonzales and Snowden likely will be moved back to Port Huron in a marked police car. It would be the first time the two have met since Gonzales was taken into police custody Dec. 18.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Mike Hulewicz said he expects Gonzales and Snowden will be arraigned within 24 to 48 hours of arriving at the county jail.

Snowden faces up to five years in prison. Gonzales faces up to life in prison.



Therapy gives hope to at-risk kids

Thursday, December 27, 2007

By Kristin Longley

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Jackson County's newest treatment program is offering hope to children in jeopardy of being taken from their homes due to behavioral issues.

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive, home-based therapy program for the families of juveniles who have severe, chronic problems such as stealing or assaulting others. The first group of court-ordered children and their families will begin treatment Wednesday.

Local human services leaders are calling this effort "pivotal" to the future of at-risk children in Jackson County.

"It is going to hopefully keep these youth in the community and out of the system," said Teresa Hawkins, executive director of the Jackson County Youth Center. "It will also surround them with a support system."

The program came here through a community collaboration that includes LifeWays, Circuit Court Family Division and the local Department of Human Services. It aims to change how juveniles function in their natural settings -- home, school and neighborhood -- in ways that promote positive social behavior.

MST is evidence-based, meaning it has been scientifically proven to show results, said Diane Cranston, clinical services director for LifeWays, one of six community health organizations in the state to administer the program.

Master's-degree therapists from Integro and Highfields will meet with the youths, ages 12 to 17, and their families over four months, coaching parents on providing boundaries and working to change the environment.

The program will treat 36 children this year and 56 next year.

A \$22,250 grant from the state and a local match from LifeWays will fund training for the therapists and data collection.

Another \$396,000 in local Medicaid dollars will pay for the actual treatment services.

When it comes to treating juvenile offenders, restrictive out-of-home placements, such as residential treatment, psychiatric hospitalization and incarceration, fail to address the causes of serious antisocial behavior and fail to change old, destructive habits, according to the MST Web site.

But this therapy program deals intensively with adults to help them create structure at home and in the community. The three overarching goals are to keep the juveniles at home, in school and out of detention centers.

Jackson County has never had a program like this, Cranston said.

"This is not about convincing a child to do right," she said.

"It's creating an environment in which the child has no choice but to do right because wherever they turn there's an adult over their shoulder."

The program is only accepting referrals from the Circuit Court at this time, and children must be on Medicaid in order to participate, Cranston said.

Cranston said the program will be ongoing and LifeWays will be seeking more funding in the future.

“This is a part of us, LifeWays, strengthening our community-based services for youth,” she said. “We want to keep these kids in their homes and in our community.”

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Thursday, December 27, 2007

Editorial rebuttal

Privatization will hurt Wayne Friend of Court

Blaming the decision of Mary Beth Kelly to resign her position as chief circuit judge in Wayne County on a "self serving union" is about as political as it gets ("Self-serving union does in a fine judge," Nov. 15). Yes, AFSCME Local 3309 and its parent Michigan Council 25 oppose privatization as a threat to jobs, income, and pensions. Is it self serving to the point of a breach of public trust that the union protects the interests of its membership? Are deliberately stigmatized public employees entitled to nothing?

And we are stigmatized, as The News uses words like "inept" to describe our efforts and paint an inaccurate picture of court employees as lazy and selfish. But as The News itself conceded, the unionized employees of the Wayne County Friend of the Court handle more than one fifth of child collections in Michigan. This is done without one fifth of the necessary work force. Nor would privatization make a dent in this shortage of workers.

But the most important question is never asked (much less answered) by those promoting privatization: How will the public be better served when government employees, prohibited by law to strike, are replaced by private sector employees (whose right to strike is fundamental)?

John O'Neill

Executive Board

AFSCME Local 3309

Detroit

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Thursday, December 27, 2007

Editorial

Sheriff finds right weapon to deter domestic violence

The Detroit News

It would be comforting to think that a habitual domestic abuser, someone who repeatedly is arrested and convicted for causing the women and children in his life harm, would be locked away for a good, long time. But the reality is that even those abusers who are sent to jail or prison will eventually be set free. Most often, domestic abusers are sentenced to a relatively short term in the county lock-up. And many will repeat their crimes when they are released.

Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans is dealing with that reality. He's targeting his county's 300 worst domestic violence offenders for an intensive program designed to change their behavior.

Project Save House will use private contractors to provide education and counseling to offenders while they are in jail, and follow-up support after their release.

Evans' approach, which is backed by County Executive Bob Ficano, Prosecutor Kym Worthy and the state Corrections Department, makes far more sense than simply locking up domestic violence offenders for a prescribed period of time and then turning them loose on the community with the same character and mental disorders that prompted the crime in the first place.

Evans has good reason to try something new. Of the 70,000 domestic violence victims in Michigan, 30 percent are in Wayne County. This is a serious problem that merits a serious response.

While primarily targeted at adult males, Project Safe House will also deal with juveniles who are arrested for assaulting their parents or grandparents, a growing problem in Wayne County.

Under the program, inmates will get six hours of counseling a day for 15 days, for a total of 90 hours, and then follow-up attention.

Punishment alone is not enough to deter a repeat of crimes that are rooted in deep psychological disorders.

If a program designed to treat the root causes can prevent even a small portion of the abuse cases recorded in Wayne County each year, it will be worth the cost, and certainly worth expanding.

Recidivism is a major driver of criminal activity in Michigan. Of the 10,000 inmates released each year, 44 percent will return to prison within two years.

And 18 percent will have their paroles revoked in less than 12 months.

Slowing that revolving door would have a major impact on public safety in Michigan.

Sheriff Evans understands that, and his domestic violence program has the potential of becoming an excellent weapon in combatting repeat offenders.

Find this article at:

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Article published Dec 27, 2007
Donation rescues victims' program
Kathryn Hemenway
For the Enquirer

ALBION — A grassroots effort to save the Personal Protection Order program in Albion got a boost after Albion Philanthropic Women voted to donate \$9,000 at their December meeting.

"This is a gap, one-time deal to help prevent this position from going away," group spokeswoman Cathy Campbell said.

The money from Albion Philanthropic Women will be given to S.A.F.E. Place, an agency that stepped forward to take over the domestic violence assistance program that helps victims of domestic violence file PPOs and assists them in transportation to court hearings related to the filings.

The program has been financed by the city since 2000, but funding will cease at the end of 2007 in an effort to balance the city's 2008 budget.

Albion City Council members recently approved next year's budget, which includes cutting four jobs: PPO coordinator position, records clerk, public safety officer and street worker.

The cuts were necessary to balance the city's \$4.7 million general fund budget after department heads submitted expenditure projections that were \$500,000 over anticipated revenues, City Manager Mike Herman said.

The city needed to make some cuts somewhere and opted to keep patrol officers on the streets, councilwoman Cheryl Krause said.

Councilman Andrew Zblewski urged residents to support efforts to keep the program in Albion.

"I really don't like the idea of us losing this (PPO) position," Zblewski said before casting his vote in favor of the cuts.

The city has agreed to provide office space and equipment if another agency can find a way to finance the program and coordinator job, Herman said.

"Obviously, we believe the work being done is important, and we will do what we can to keep the program operating here in Albion," he said.

The donation from Albion Philanthropic Women puts S.A.F.E. Place one-third of the way to the total estimated \$27,000 needed to fund the position through September, said Susan Ferguson, clinical director at S.A.F.E. Place.

The agency hopes to get funding in October from Victims of Crime Act to finance the program for the following three years, Ferguson said.

"We're going ahead with a wing and a prayer and posting the position," Ferguson said.

Albion Public Safety estimates the PPO program serves about five new clients from Albion, Homer and the 12 adjacent townships weekly — about 2,500 instances of assisting domestic violence victims and families annually.

"If we tried to do that with our existing staff, our resources would be stretched very thin," Ferguson said.

Without the local services, domestic violence victims would have to travel to Battle Creek for assistance, and many do not have transportation, said community advocate and program supporter Robina Quale-Leach.

"There's too much demonstrated need to let it go without at least trying to find a way to keep it going," Leach said.

In other Albion City Council news:

- City administration anticipates ratifying all four union contracts in January. The existing four-year contracts for 54 city employees will expire Monday.
- The council approved a 2 percent raise, about \$1,500, for Herman for next year.
- The council approved purchasing a used 1975 aerial fire truck for \$18,000.

Kathryn Hemenway is a freelance writer.



Court hearings delayed in slaying case

Thursday, December 27, 2007

The Grand Rapids Press

ALLEGAN -- Hearings for two suspects in the slaying of an Allegan man were delayed until the new year, and a third hearing has not been rescheduled.

Dena Thompson, 38, and her husband, Kristofer Thompson, 28, were scheduled to be in court Wednesday for a probable-cause hearing on murder charges in the death of Troy Tyo, Dena Thompson's ex-husband.

Another suspect, Lori Lathrop, 40, of Plainwell -- Kristofer Thompson's sister -- also had her hearing adjourned in the case. She faces charges of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm and conspiracy for allegedly seeking help from a friend to assault Tyo.

Lathrop's husband, Scott, 40, faces the same charges as his wife and last week waived his probable-cause hearing.

Scott Lathrop originally was charged with murder, but prosecutors reduced the charges last week.

Police and prosecutors say Dena Thompson was in a custody battle with her ex-husband over their two young children.

Authorities allege Kristofer Thompson on Dec. 3 attacked Tyo, 36, near his home with a baseball bat and a knife, and his wife knew about the attack.

The rescheduled hearing dates are Feb. 8 for Dena Thompson and Jan. 11 for Lori Lathrop.

Kristofer Thompson has requested a new attorney because of a conflict; no hearing date was set.

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THE BAY CITY TIMES

Caretel Inns of Tri-Cities opens its assisted-living complex in Frankenlust Township

Wednesday, December 26, 2007

By Eric English

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I

t looks like a nice hotel, but the big building with the upscale architectural details on highway M-84 is Bay County's newest nursing home and assisted-living facility.

The \$14 million Caretel Inns of Tri-Cities is ready for folks to check in for a day, a month or a year.

"We've really tried to build our facilities (to feel) small, quaint and cozy. Like a bed-and-breakfast," explains Debbie Durham, director of development for the Royal Oak-based company.

Beneath its many roof lines, the 70,000-square-foot facility houses a 60-bed skilled nursing home, a 20-bed unit for those with memory impairments and a 20-bed assisted-living facility.

Caretel Inns of Tri-Cities is located on M-84 in Frankenlust Township, about a mile north of the Saginaw County line.

That location is attracting people equally from both counties, Durham said Friday.

It's no ordinary home for older folks.

Floors are carpeted, most rooms are private and attention is focused on making residents feel comfortable, with the added help of trained nursing staff.

"This facility is designed in so many ways different than other facilities," said Horace D'Angelo Jr., Caretel's owner.

"People can see how beautiful it is - it's a life-enhancing environment," he said.

Caretel's name is a combination of the words "care" and "hotel," D'Angelo explains. The company has two other locations and a facility under construction in Genesee County.

Caretel Inns of Tri-Cities has hired about 100 people in a variety of positions to run the Bay County facility, Durham said.

Depending on the person's needs, the cost of staying at Caretel can be a little or a lot.

For example, Medicare pays 99 percent of the cost for most of those who come to the skilled nursing home, which offers rooms by the day, Durham said. The goal is to rehabilitate those "guests" and return them home or to a long-term facility, she said.

In the assisted-living wing, people can rent rooms by the month starting at about \$3,000. Those folks usually cover the cost with long-term care insurance, their savings and pensions or contributions from their families, Durham said.

D'Angelo said Caretel's cost is competitive with other elder-care facilities, but offers more by de-emphasizing the institutional aspects and promoting privacy.

The building also features an indoor "downtown" area with a hair salon, ice cream shop and gift store, and small theater showing movies on a large plasma television. It gives people living there - and their families who visit - something to do during the day outside their rooms, D'Angelo said.

Caretel Inns of Tri-Cities opened its nursing home in October and has about 80 percent occupancy, Durham said.

Irene Suchyta, an 81-year-old Bay City resident, is living at Caretel as she recovers from a broken hip.

"I call it 'Irene's Castle,' because you have everything available to you and the care is wonderful," she said.

Caretel's assisted living and memory wings open Jan. 3, and many people have booked rooms in advance, Durham said.

Some rooms still are available and the facility's telephone number is 667-9800.

"If someone would like to call us or come in for a tour, we'd be happy to assist them," she said.

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Energy costs force some to be creative

By Lindsay VanHulle

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—

TRAVERSE CITY -- Firewood lines the porch of Reva Sharp's home.

She uses wood to supplement the heat in her Ninth Street home, running the furnace at night and stocking a wood-burning stove as often as she can.

It saves a significant amount of money on her energy bills if she doesn't rely solely on her furnace.

"I just kind of split it up the best I can," Sharp said. "I work it so I cut back if I have to."

Sharp is just one area resident who uses creative home heating solutions in the face of high energy costs.

In addition, some local nonprofit organizations that provide seniors and low-income residents with energy assistance are facing reductions in funding and, in turn, are limiting the number of people they can help.

The Northwest Michigan Human Services Agency, or NMHSA, received \$44,000 from the state's Public Service Commission this month, down from \$57,000 a year ago, said Amy Lewis, a community services representative with the agency.

And all of it since has been exhausted. The agency helped close to 95 people with as much as \$600 per family, Lewis said.

"That's basically all of our money until next December," she said, with the exception of fundraisers. "Bottom line is, it's looking pretty grim."

The agency is eligible for federal funding, but it's not likely the money will be available this year, Lewis said. It wasn't received last year.

The Father Fred Foundation also offers energy assistance, but typically as a last resort: People first are expected to apply for government funding through NMHSA or the Grand Traverse County Department of Human Services.

And even then, the most the organization could offer a family is \$300 per year, operations director Norm Bamberg said.

"There's enough food and clothing, but there's not enough money," Bamberg said. "That's why we limit it."

This year 1,200 new families have applied for assistance, Bamberg said.

In an effort to help families who might not be able to secure funding from another organization, the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation has created an emergency energy assistance fund for area seniors.

The organization hopes to raise \$50,000 by the end of the year to benefit up to 20 families each in Grand Traverse, Benzie, Leelanau, Antrim and Kalkaska counties -- up to \$10,000 per county.

Energy costs force some to be creative

But current funding levels provide for less than \$7,000 per county, which is why coordinators are seeking community donations, said Gregory Piaskowski, executive director of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan.

"We're not going to get to help a lot of people, but hopefully we'll be able to help some people really in need," Piaskowski said.

DTE Energy customers should anticipate spending roughly \$175 per month on their energy bills, assuming weather conditions remain normal, spokeswoman Eileen Dixon said.

The price per cubic foot of natural gas is expected to drop by about 50 cents compared to last year, Dixon said.

A gallon of propane gas costs anywhere from \$2.20 to \$2.60, said Val Stone, community services coordinator with NMHSA. And fuel oil is more than \$3 a gallon.

"You can see really easy how people on fixed incomes or on minimum-wage jobs would get into trouble real quick and wind up without heat," Piaskowski said.

Jon Mead and his wife, Kay Boyne, live on an orchard near Frankfort in southern Benzie County. They heat their home primarily through a wood-burning stove, which they stoke around the clock, rather than with a propane-fueled furnace.

"We're getting most of our heat with wood, so we don't need the furnace," Mead said. "It's definitely cheaper, and it's more pleasant."

How to help

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation has created an energy assistance fund for area seniors. It needs to raise about \$18,000 in order to meet its end-of-year goal of \$50,000. Donations will be accepted online at www.4good4ever.org through Monday.

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Photos



Reva Sharp uses wood to supplement the cost of heating her home, located on Ninth Street in Traverse City. Some area residents are getting creative with ways to heat their homes and battle the high costs. Record-Eagle



THE BAY CITY TIMES

Hand up for Hispanics

Wednesday, December 26, 2007

By Patti Brandt

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Neither of Carrie (Ramirez) Dodge's parents went to college; her paternal grandmother could barely speak English.

But the Bay City resident knew that for her, a college degree was a must.

"My parents have always told me they wanted me to go to college," Dodge said. "They always stressed it, almost daily, and I knew that I had to do something."

Dodge, 25, graduated in 2005 from Delta College with an associate's degree in physical therapy. She got her diploma on a Friday and started her job as a physical therapy assistant the following Tuesday.

"I've been working ever since," she said.

Delta College recently made Hispanic Outlook Magazine's annual Publisher's Picks, a list of colleges and universities at which Hispanic students thrive, according to the magazine. Delta is one of only five community colleges in Michigan that made the list.

In the 2002-03 academic year, 48 Hispanics graduated from Delta in all degree and certificate programs; in 2003-04 there were 49 Hispanic graduates; and in 2004-05 there were 63. And there were 63 Hispanic graduates in the 2005-06 school year, accounting for about 4.5 percent of the 1,402 degrees and certificates granted by Delta that year.

Through the 2005-06 school year Delta College was second in the state for graduating the largest number of Hispanics among Michigan community colleges, falling behind only Lansing Community College.

According to Hispanic Outlook, the number of Hispanic students enrolled in higher education increased by 67 percent between 1994 and 2004, but those numbers are now nearly at a standstill. In addition, statistics show that about one in four students are traditional - entering college right after completing high school, attending full time and gaining a degree at the end of four years, the magazine writes.

Many Hispanic students fall into the non-traditional category - working full time, caring for children, or even contributing toward household expenses of their parents. Schools are adapting, Hispanic Outlook writes, but more needs to be done to attract and engage Hispanic students.

Ray Gutierrez, 63, is an academic adviser in the multicultural services office at Delta. The office serves students of all races, but its goal is to zoom in on first-generation economically disadvantaged students, many of whom are Hispanic, he said.

As of 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, people of Hispanic or Latino origins make up about 7 percent of the population in Saginaw County, about 4 percent in Bay County, and 1.7 percent in Midland County. Statewide, that number is 3.8 percent and nationwide, 14.4 percent.

Gutierrez, a Delta graduate himself, visits public and parochial schools in his recruiting efforts, but also tries to target the Hispanic population by visiting nontraditional entities, such as churches, church festivals and ethnic festivals.

He also works with community-based organizations such as the American G.I. Forum, the League of United

Latin American Citizens and Saginaw's Mexican American Council to reach out to Hispanic young people, who many times feel like they're not college material, Gutierrez said.

"Sometimes these students feel disenfranchised," said Gutierrez, himself the son of migrant workers. "I feel it. I sense it ... I try to break that mentality. I try to empower them."

One of the things Gutierrez tells them is that Delta is a taxpayer-supported college.

"I tell them, 'This is your school. This is your home. You have every right to be here.'"

He also tries to impress upon them that if they want a nice car, a nice home and a nice neighborhood in which to raise the families they'll have someday, they will need to have college degrees.

"You're not going to do it working at a local restaurant flipping burgers," Gutierrez tells them.

It's also important to work with parents, he said. Having their support, especially with prospective students who may be of the first generation in the family to go to college, sometimes makes all the difference, Gutierrez said.

Once they enroll at Delta, Gutierrez often becomes a mentor for them, helping them to fill out financial aid forms, pick classes and get help with academics when needed.

"I try to make myself accessible, approachable," he said. "I don't speak at them, I speak to them."

After Delta, Gutierrez earned advanced degrees at Western Michigan University and the University of Michigan. Dodge, meanwhile, will attend Davenport University to earn her bachelor's degree in health administration.

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Thursday, December 27, 2007

Helping Hands

Mom left job to keep up with college studies

Taylor resident with 5 kids at home has been 'scrounging and scraping' to pay bills, car repairs.

Mark Hicks / The Detroit News

TAYLOR -- The new year will begin leaner for Lisa Cardinal and her family.

The 39-year-old was forced to leave a gas station job several months ago because it interfered with her accounting studies at Wayne County Community College District.

The father of her four children earns money as a dishwasher at a country club, and her mother, a postal worker, also contributes, but numerous bills quickly absorb paychecks.

Two gaskets recently blew on their Chevrolet Ventura, costing some \$1,600 and setting the family back even more.

The family receives a limited amount of monthly food stamps, which sometimes are not enough.

"I've been scrounging and scraping," Cardinal said. "It's been difficult."

Cardinal recently turned to the Information Center Inc., The Family Resource Place, a Taylor-based nonprofit information and service agency.

It is one of five organizations partnering with the United Way for Southeastern Michigan/211 in Helping Hands, a collaboration linking families with aid during the holiday season.

The Detroit News is spotlighting some of the area residents.

Between pursuing a degree and completing household duties, Cardinal tends to her daughters -- Virginia, 18, Amanda, 16, Crystal, 15, and Jessica, 9 -- as well as a 2-year-old granddaughter, Heather.

Since her mother, Charlene, 61, who struggles with epilepsy and other ailments, might soon retire, Cardinal has searched for other jobs, but has not yet found one she is able to balance with her studies and home.

"I've just been having a hard time trying to find one with everything going on," Cardinal said. "I'm trying to find something I can do."

And during the holidays, "it gets really hard," she said. "Usually when I have money I spend it on the kids. I don't have a lot. I very rarely spend anything on myself."

Her family's wish list includes clothes, sheets, towels, blankets and dinnerware.

Family's case not unusual

As Michigan's economic downturn worsens, Cardinal's situation has become common in Metro Detroit, said Lori Stevenson, an Information Center program coordinator.

With an adopt-a-family program and other services, more than 200 families and seniors have been assisted through the center this holiday season, Stevenson said.

And, in an "unusual" twist, she said, even some past donors are returning for aid this year.

"People are losing their jobs," Stevenson said. "Money is getting tighter."

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Published December 27, 2007

Family of 11-year-old killed in accident seeking donations

Midday update

Ryan Loew
Lansing State Journal

The family of the 11-year-old boy who died after being hit by a car on Dec. 19 are seeking donations due to financial hardship, family member Karla Russell said.

The boy, whom Lansing Township police have identified as Kahlil Hoard, of Lansing, had been standing in the roadway on West Willow Street on the morning of Dec. 19 when he was hit by a vehicle driven by 20-year-old Lindsay Middleton of Lansing, police said.

Hoard died Monday as a result of his injuries, township police Chief Kay Hoffman said.

Russell, of Lansing, said donations can be made to the Lamar Hoard Fund at any Lansing Automakers Federal Credit Union, which are located throughout the Lansing area.

Lamar Hoard is the boy's father.

The accident remains under investigation, though Hoffman said police have ruled out speed and weather conditions as reasons for the crash.

Contact Ryan Loew at 377-1206 or rloew@lsj.com.

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